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SOCCER STAR

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CROYDON PLAYED 'BANNED' STRIKER

By LES SHORROCK

CROYDON City is seeking to get its State League match with Maribyrnong Polonia replayed, on the grounds that it was improperly deprived of a player for the whole of the second half.

At half-time during the Maribyrnong v Croydon game on April 17, referee Sam Zoumas took exception to a remark made by Croydon's Graham French as the players walked down the race.

The referee followed the Croydon players into their dressing room and warned him in front of the rest of the team to watch his language.

French didn't respond then, but as Zoumas left the room he heard French make another remark and he returned and told him, in effect, "you're off".

Croydon coach Miron Bleiberg said that he decided then to substitute French and told 16 year old Spencer Field to get ready to take his place.

But when he went to the referee's dressing room to clarify the position referee Zoumas said he wouldn't permit a substitution.

Bleiberg says, "He said to me, 'I want you to play with ten men for the second half' and that was in front of the two linesmen, Messrs Barnett and Brazzal.

"I pleaded with him, saying Frenchie has been naughty and I'll co-operate with you by taking him off

and playing the boy instead, even though you didn't show him a red card.

"But he wouldn't budge and just repeated 'I want you to play with ten men'."

On Monday after the game, Croydon wrote to the VSF asking for French's passport back and got it.

This was after club had been informed that a 'sending-off', before a game, during the interval or after the game had to be the subject of a special report which would be heard by the Tribunal.

The VSF acceded to Croydon's request that French be allowed to play in the next match, against Box Hill, pending the Tribunal hearing, which took place last night (Wednesday).

Now the nub of the matter is this.

If Zoumas' action in sending off French was correct, he should have served a week's suspension the following week, in which case he had no right to play against Box Hill.

But if Zoumas was wrong, then Croydon is entitled to a replay, because it was wrongfully deprived of a player, costing it the game.

It doesn't end there, though.

If the Tribunal finds that Zoumas' action was right, where does Box Hill stand?

Shouldn't it be entitled to protest that Croydon forfeit the two points it obtained from their game because French was ineligible?



● Graham French

JUVE CRISIS-McKENDRY QUILTS



● Len McKendry

Len McKendry's two and a half year association with Brunswick Juventus ended when he resigned his coaching position on Saturday after discussing his situation with club president Dominic Tenuta.

The players had stayed behind after training the night before for a frank discussion on the

club's position and how to improve it.

But when the players were asked about McKendry's coaching they stayed loyal to a man and declined to pass judgement, saying that decisions in that area were the prerogative of the committee.

So Tenuta grasped the nettle and asked McKendry to go for

the good of the club, and he resigned.

Juventus followed Preston's lead and asked captain and senior player Brian Brown to take over as caretaker-coach.

Brown reshuffled the pack somewhat for Sunday's game, with Peter Lewis coming back from suspension, but to no avail, as the black and Whites went down again.

Juventus plainly has a defensive problem, having conceded 21 goals, the second highest number in the League, and it is taking steps to rectify that by hiring Peter Laumets as a goalkeeper coach.

It will be strengthened also by the return of Mike Petersen to the midfield, but Andrew Zinni, despite having

the pin removed from his injured thumb, is still not ready to resume.

If appointing Brian Brown doesn't bring about the required improvement, Juve could look around for another coach.

One who comes readily to mind is John Margaritis, presently holidaying in Greece, who is no stranger to Juventus.



● Brian Brown

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS LIFT OUT PAGES 8-9

DEDICATION THE KEY TO SUCCESS

— Says Youth Coach

AT the start of this year, the South Melbourne committee set the local scene agog with its decision to dispose of seven senior players and rebuild for the 1988 season with the accent on youth.

The critics scoffed at the thought that any club



● Con Giatas.

could dispense with players of the calibre of Peter Laumets, Charlie Egan, Garry McDowall, Stuart Stevenson, Danny Crainie, Carl Halford and Richard Miranda and replace them with untried youngsters.

But today those critics are having to eat their words because as we write, South Melbourne is making a bold bid for this year's championship and already has one trophy on the sideboard, the Buffalo Cup.

One factor that caused the South Melbourne committee to take such a drastic course was its confidence in senior coach Brian Garvey's ability to bring out the best in his younger players reinforced by its belief in its youth team.

The youth team is coached by one of South's 'back-room boys', Steve Short, who is just about bursting with pride over his as yet unbeaten boys.

Three of youth team of last year, goalkeeper Con Giatas, defender Paul Fernandes and striker Kim Taliodoros have graduated to the senior squad and others are sure to follow.

Just what is the secret of South's youth success? If you ask Steve Short, he modestly turns aside his own contribution, and

answers quite simply, "hard work".

"All the players in the youth squad here," he says, "are made well aware that there is a lot of hard work to be got through and a lot of learning to be done before they become top-class players."

"They work hard through the week, but when they go out to play a game on a Sunday, I simply want them to enjoy themselves."

"They don't just go out there to play a game, they go out to win, because winning becomes a habit and the love of winning and being part of the team spirit is very important at this stage of a player's career."

"Even a small taste of success can fire a boy and set him on the road to becoming an international representative."

Steve Short knows that good players aren't made overnight, some bloom early and then lose the urge, others reach their peak later.

Many players may leave his youth set-up at the end of the season, but Steve is satisfied that he has sent them out prepared to become better players and if they make the grade at another club, he's only too happy for them, because their success is all for the good

of the game.

"The development of our home-grown young players is very important if we are ever to become a force at international level and if we want the game to gain the public recognition it deserves."

"There are many, many good young players spread throughout the Melbourne clubs, but only too often they become lost to the game after becoming embroiled in selfish club politics or being subjected to parental interference."

"And very often top players fall by the wayside after being disappointed by coaches who have built them by overpraising them and then overlooking them."

Steve places a very high premium on attitude too.

"Quite apart from constantly honing their skills and gaining a great understanding of the game, it is so important that players appreciate that only with the correct attitude, dedication and a sense of responsibility will they reach the highest level."

"Unfortunately, love of the game and the hunger that goes with the desire to work hard and compete is sadly, often lacking in today's youngsters."

"But it's great to work with those who have the dedication, and my only



● South's Youth coach in his playing days. Short, who represented Victoria was a stalwart and rugged defender whose career was cut short by a knee injury.

unpleasant task in dealing with such a great bunch of boys is having to tell one he hasn't been selected.

"But that is part and parcel of a coach's lot and you have to take it in your stride."

Five of Steve Short's present youth squad are under fifteen years old, and most will still be under age next season.

And he is always on the

lookout for more talent, so any boy who is interested in playing for the South Melbourne U/18 team and wishes to have a trial for the Youth squad is welcome to contact club secretary Jim Armstrong, telephone no. 370 8197.

The present youth squad is Angie Karageorgiou (15), Sonny Sevin (15), Kieron Lennon (15),

Paul Donnelly *18), Dennis Mihos (16), Jason Koliba (15), Tony Markoski (15), Chris Evangelias (17), Kris Traganouski (15), Billy Tsakos (17), Arthur Robotis (17), Nick Andreads (17), Tony Hitos (17), Steve Karakitos (17), Costa Perharis (16), and Con Argyrion (17).

CLASH OF THE YEAR

ONE of the biggest matches of the weekend will take place not in the National League, not in the State League, but in the First Division, where top team Altona Gate Vardar tackles second placed Albion Turku Gucu.

In what promises to be a memorable spectacle for Macedonian and Turkish soccer fans, the Altona Gate defence, which has yet to concede a goal, will be fully tested by Turku Gucu's dynamic striker Ossi Latif.

Latif, like Altona Gate Vardar's Mendo Ristovski, has been scoring every week. Both players starred in the NSL with Footscray JUST, while Turku Gucu has other former JUST players in Marino Oblak and Goce Nedelkovski.

Last weekend, Altona Gate Vardar thrashed

Knox City 4-0 with two goals by Kebakoski, and one each by Tasevski and Ristovski, while Turku Gucu downed Westgate 2-1, the goals coming from Latif and Diliberto.

The other victories left Altona Gate and Turku Gucu level on eight points, with Altona Gate holding leadership by virtue of goal difference.

An interesting sidelight to the big clash at Paisley Reserve in Altona North on Saturday at 3 pm is that Turku Gucu's goalkeeper Ernie Toth used to play for Vardar.

Can he keep out his former teammates?

Other well known players on show will include Vardar goalkeeper Lee and defender Momirovski who used to play for Preston-Makedonia, and Drinoczky who is ex-Melbourne Hungaria. Watch out too for wellknown Turkish player Yasar Behic of

By LAURIE SCHWAB of The Age



Turku Gucu.

Incidentally, Latif has been at the centre of an ownership wrangle between JUST and Turku Gucu.

Last year, when he switched to Turku Gucu, the new club agreed to pay him the balance of his contract for that season and that it would release him back to JUST for the 1988 season.

JUST president Joe Sterpin was complaining a few weeks ago that this had not been done.

Juventus aims high

MIKE Petersen and Mehmet Durakovic return after injury to play for Brunswick Juventus against Adelaide Juventus at Olympic Park on Sunday.

The match has been switched from the Olympic Village ground because Alexander has a home game there this week.

Durakovic resumed with the reserves last Sunday, scoring two goals in a 4-0 victory over Makedonia. Andrew Zinni, who broke a finger at training and has missed

two matches, is also due to resume — if not this week, then certainly next week, against Melbourne Croatia.

Durakovic, who has played in virtually every position, is likely to become the new right back, as Peter Lewis soon will move to Queensland.

Following the sacking of coach Len McKendry, and the appointment of Brian Brown as player-coach, we might see Rino Minichiello being given a run in the senior team.

He has played in Italy for 18 months but was told on his return that there was no place for him in the senior squad and that he should train with the youth team.

Juventus is concerned about its goalkeeping position, as Pat Marama has cost the club a few goals recently and it would not surprise to see Peter Laumets, being recruited from South Melbourne Hellas.

Brown has been appointed as coach until the end of the season. Meanwhile, the club is likely to contact John Margaritis, the man who led it to the 1984 NSL championship. Margaritis is in Greece on business.



● Ossi Latif... he'll test Altona Gate.



● Mendo Ristovski.



● Peter Laumets... goalkeeper coach.

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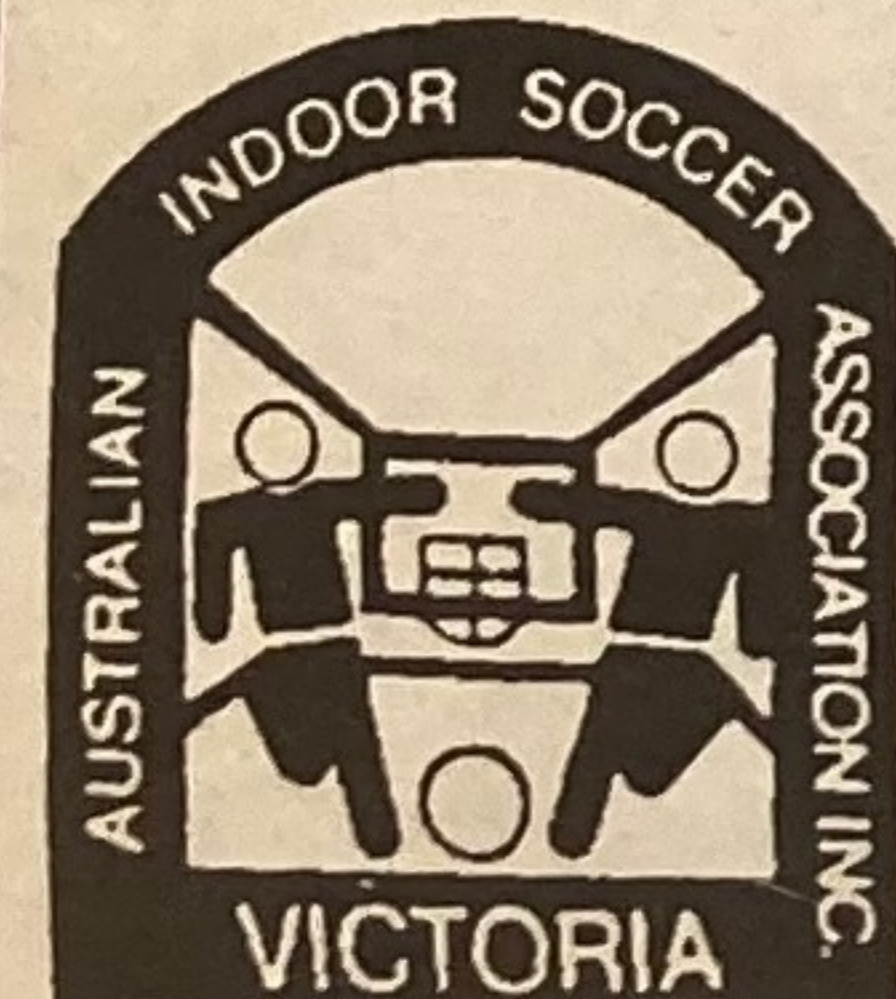
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WILL YOU BE IN IT?



NATIONAL LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Round Twelve Details

WOLLONGONG 4 (Easthorpe 21st, 51st, 55th, Crainie 73rd) SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

at Brandon Park, Sunday. Crowd 2995. Referee G. Power.
WOLLONGONG: Young — Skeen, Vlietstra, Radcliffe, Hollifield — Ainsworth (Cokely 77th), Brodnik, Morlino, Crainie — Brazil, Easthorpe. Coach John Fleming.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Giatas — Healy, Russell, Blair, Postecoglou — Tasios, (Taliodoros 68th), Micheil, Kalogeros, Tsolakis — Wright (Fernades 73rd), Trimboli. Coach Brian Garvey.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 4 (Stevenson 41st, 57th, Campbell 44th, Stewart 46th)
BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS: (Egan 29th, McDowall 69th, Palatsides 83rd)

at Connor Reserve, Sunday. Crowd 2500. Referee D. Campbell.
PRESTON MAKEDONIA: Traianides — Opaninis, Jackson, Tasevski (Piculovski 53rd), Roadhouse — Stewart, Petrov, Campbell, Gojevic — Stevenson, Dimovski. Coach Ron Campbell.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS: Marrama — Lewis, Yzendoorn, Brown, Marley — McDowall, Incantalupo, Patterson, McGrellis — Egan, Palatsides. Coach Brian Brown.

FOOTSCRAY 1 (Crino, pen. 52nd)
SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS (Parton 82nd)

at Schintler Reserve, Sunday. Crowd 3125. Referee M. Browning. Sent off van Egmond (Foots). Cautions Spink, Burlak (Foots), Waddell, Campelj, Parton (Geo. X).

FOOTSCRAY: Nikitovic — Deankovic — Barjaktarevic, Karic, van Egmond (sent off 64th), Fabrizio — Burlak (James 64th), Crino, Mitrovski — Dimoski, Spink. Coach Mirsad Fazlagich.

GEORGE CROSS: Keogh — Marth, Waddell, Parton, Campelj — McLaren, Markovac, Ketsakides (Taylor 86th), Markovski — Lennon, Clark. Coach John Gardiner.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 0
APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (McKinna 51st)

at Olympic Park, Sunday. Crowd 1000. Referee D. Voutsinas.
MELBOURNE CROATIA: Oler — Davidson, Dobson, Hannah, Donnelly — Selemidis, Biskic, Milosevic, Dunn — Lewis, Scott. Coach Ian Wallace.

APIA LEICHHARDT: Greedy — de Marigny, Bertogna, Yankos, Brown — Bundalo, Stewart, Phillips, Butler (Parison 69th) — McKinna, Ward. Coach Rale Rasic.

ST. GEORGE 0
SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Lamond 50th)

at St George Stadium. Crowd 4200. Referee J. Fraser.
ST. GEORGE: Gibson, O'Connor, O'Shea, Grbevski — Ricoy, Moffitt, Torteviski (Fletcher 46th) — Pottier — Hagan, Ollerenshaw, Coach Frank Arok.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken — Jones, Hunter, Rozic, Jennings — Petkovic (Rezo 79th), Foster, Clinch — Slater (Ingham 86th), Arnold, Lamond, Vedran Rozic.

MARCONI 1 (Gomez 13th)
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Patalis 50th)

at Marconi Stadium, Sunday. Crowd 4900. Referee R. LoRenc.
MARCONI: Catlin — Gomez (Carter 40th), Henderson, Calderan, Wheatly — Gray, McCulloch, Nasteviski — Farina, de Jong, Lowe. Coach Bert Mariani.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling — Hooker, Haniotis, Coady, Ironside — Phillips, Polak, Saad, Pontidas (Raskopolous 73rd) — Kosmina (Soper 67th), Patalis. Coach Eddie Thomson.

ADELAIDE CITY 5 (Maxwell 18th, 36th, 81st Villani 49th, Miller 75th)
BRISBANE LIONS 1 (Ogden 22nd)

at Olympic Sportsfield, Sunday. Crowd 3250. Referee J. Rossis.
ADELAIDE CITY: Zabica — Shillabeer, Nyskohus, Flounders, Tobin — Villani (Santrac 60th) Sorensen, Vidmar, Northcote — Mullen (Miller 70th), Maxwell. Coach Zoran Matic.

BRISBANE LIONS: Kearton — Ogden, Mengotti, Cummings, Bassingthwaite — Niven, Haiord, Stewart, Drury, (Clarkson 65th), — Dwyer, Meredith.

SYDNEY CROATIA 3 (Clinch 25th, Lamond 54th, Arnold 72nd)
BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 1 (Palatsides, pen. 64th).

at Croatian Sports Centre, Wednesday. Crowd 3000. Referee T. Seacy.
SYDNEY CROATIA: Franken — Jones, Hunter, Rozic, Jennings — Clinch, Foster, Petkovic (sub Rezo 65th), Arnold — Slater, Lamond. Coach Vedran Rozic.

BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS: Marrama — Marley, Yzendoorn, Brown, Incantalupo — McDowall, McGrellis, Patterson, Lane (Beltic 71st), Egan, Palatsides. Coach Len McKendry.

HOW THEY STAND

Youth League Results Round Twelve

NUNAWADING CITY 0 OAKLEIGH 1
FOOTSCRAY 0 ST GEORGE CROSS 1
CAULFIELD CITY 0 HEIDELBERG 4
PRESTON 0 JUVENTUS 4
CLIFTON HILL 2 SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
CLARINDA 6 WAW/MULGRAVE UN 2
MELBOURNE CROATIA bye

NSL DETAILS

Youth League Fixtures Round 13 May 1

CLARINDA v CLIFTON HILL 1.00 pm
SOUTH MELBOURNE v PRESTON 12.30 pm
B. JUVENTUS v CAULFIELD CITY 12.30 pm
HEIDELBERG v MELBOURNE CROATIA 1.00 pm
S. GEORGE CROSS v NUNAWADING CITY 12.30 pm
WAW/MULGRAVE UN v OAKLEIGH 1.00 pm
FOOTSCRAY bye

Leading Goalscorers

- Paul Lewis (M. Cr) (2 pens)
- Farina (Marc)
- Maxwell (Adcity)
- Palatsides (Juve)
- Postecoglou (S.M.)
- Egan (Juve)
- Ollerenshaw (St.G)
- Phillips (APIA)
- Spink (Foots)
- Saad (Olymp) (2 pens)
- Clark (GX)
- Crino (Foots)
- Gray (Marc)
- R.Stewart (Lions)
- Tasios (S.M)
- Arnold (Syd Cr)
- Brazil (Woll)
- Dimoski (Foots)
- Easthorpe (Woll)
- Gomez (Marc)
- Koczka (St.G)
- Lennon (G.X)
- McLaren (G.X)
- Meredith (Lions)
- Nasteviski (Marc)
- Taliodoros (S.M)
- Trimboli (S.M)
- Vidmar (Adcity)
- Ainsworth (Woll) (1pen)
- Brodnik (Woll)
- Brundalo (APIA)
- Campbell (P.M)
- Campelj (G.X)
- Carter (G.X)
- Crainie (Woll)
- Dwyer (Lions)
- Drury (Lions)
- Fletcher (St.G)
- Hagan (St.G)
- Ilic (St.G)
- Lightdown (Lions)
- Lowe (Marc)
- McKinna (APIA)
- Murphy (M. Cro)
- Nasteviski (Marc)
- Parton (G.X)
- Patalis (Syd.O)
- Pontidas (Olymp)
- Stevenson (P.M)
- Stewart J. (P.M)

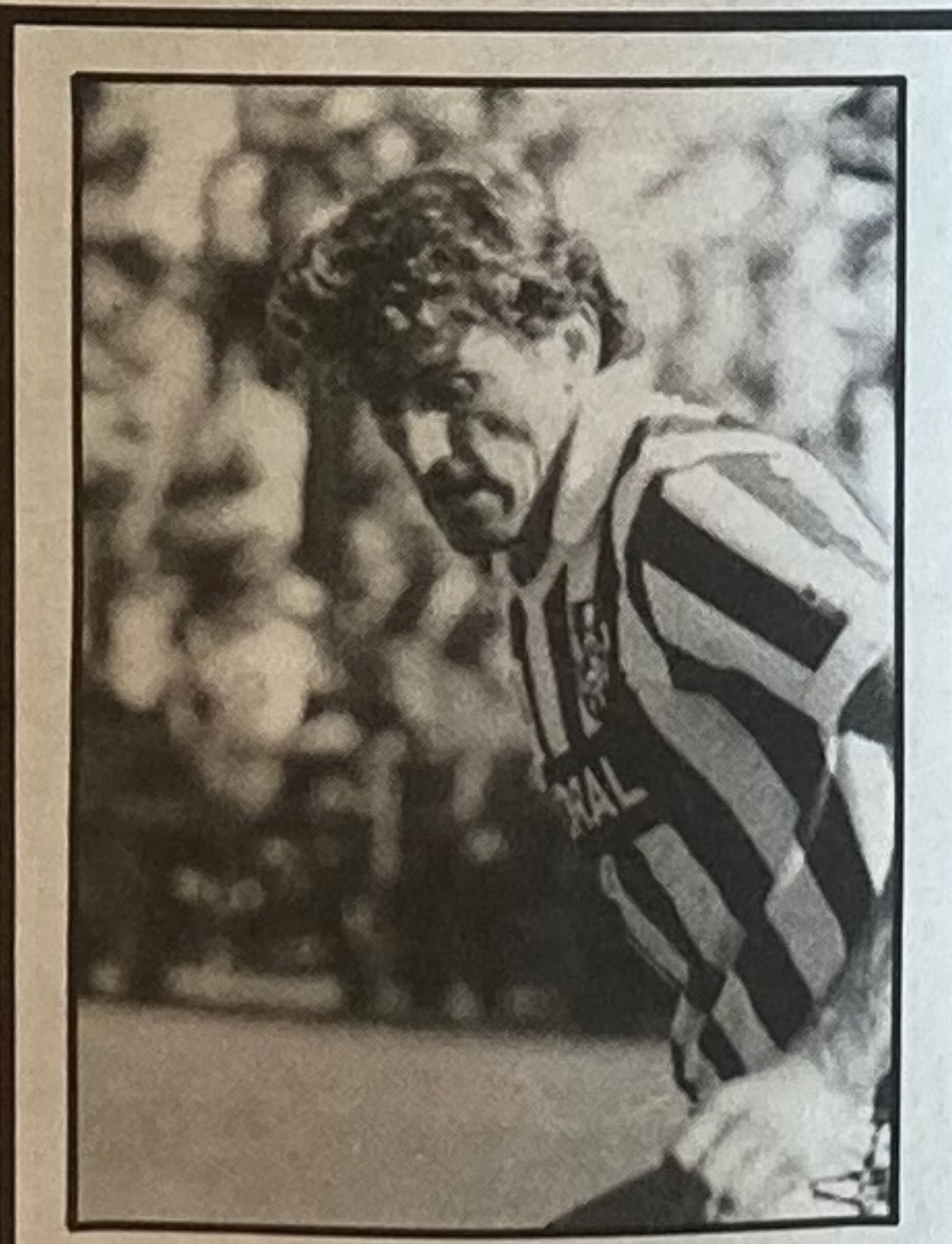
PLEASE NOTE: YOUTH LEAGUE RESULTS AND LEAGUE LADDER ARE AS SUPPLIED BY THE VSC AND ARE NOT COMPILED BY SOCCER STAR.

NATIONAL LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
WOLLONGONG	11	7	3	1	19	10	17
MARCONI	11	6	3	2	22	11	15
S. GEORGE CROSS	12	5	4	3	19	17	14
SOUTH MELBOURNE	12	5	4	3	18	19	14
SYDNEY CROATIA	12	6	2	4	15	18	14
Sydney Olympic	12	4	4	4	13	9	12
APIA Leichhardt	12	5	2	5	16	17	12
Melbourne Croatia	11	4	3	4	12	14	11
Footscray	12	2	6	4	13	13	10
Preston	12	2	6	4	9	14	10
St. George	12	4	1	7	20	18	9
Brisbane Lions	11	3	2	6	16	23	8
B. Juventus	12	1	4	7	12	21	6

YOUTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Sth. Melb.	10	7	3	0	27	9	17
Sunshine G.X.	10	8	0	2	39	10	16
Preston	10	8	0	2	31	14	16
BU Juventus	10	6	2	2	33	10	14
Melb Croatia	10	4	3	3	22	19	11
Oakleigh	10	4	3	3	20	26	11
Clarinda	10	5	0	5	21	28	10
Footscray	11	4	1	6	14	18	9
Clifton Hill	11	2	5	4	22	36	9
Heidelberg Utd	10	2	4	4	13	19	8
Caulfield City	10	3	1	6	14	24	7
Nunawading C	11	2	2	7	13	29	6
Waw/Mulg Utd	10	0	0	10	10	36	0



Adelaide City's Steve Maxwell — his hat-trick last week moved him up to joint second place — Frank Farina. Beware.

Marconi hold Olympic

SOUTH THRASHED

WOLLONGONG 4 (Easthorpe 21st, 50th, 62nd, Crainie 73rd) SOUTH MELBOURNE 0

City continue to defy their League critics with another outstanding performance which retained their place at the head of the premiership table.

Rangy striker Randall Easthorpe grabbed a hat-trick as the South Coast team outclassed South Melbourne 4-0 in a one-sided game at Brandon Park.

It was the 21-year-old Easthorpe's first National League hat-trick and while he was the hero of the Wollongong fans' Danny Crainie was not far behind.

Crainie, a former South Melbourne midfielder, sliced through the visitors' defence time after time and his former coach Brian Garvey must be wondering why the club let him go.

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● ● ●
RANDELL EASTHORPE

"I thought we played well for the first 20 minutes but fell away badly after that and I expected a lot more from my players," said Garvey.

Wollongong scored their first goal after 21 minutes after Easthorpe ran on to a through ball from fullback David Skeen.

Five minutes after the interval Easthorpe struck again when South Melbourne failed to clear a Crainie corner from the right and he completed his hat-trick eleven minutes later.

With 18 minutes to play, Crainie again brought the fans to their feet when midfielder Pat Brodnik crossed to Easthorpe and the striker laid the ball perfectly for Crainie to curl it out of the reach of goalkeeper Con Giatas from 18 metres.

Former Socceroo goalkeeper Terry Greedy was among the best players as reigning champion Apia-Leichhardt strengthened its bid for a place in the top five at Olympic Park.

Greedy had been in Tony Pezzano's shadow for more than a year before finally cracking it for the top goalkeeping spot at Apia.

He probably saved the match for Apia when he blocked a close range shot for NSL top scorer Paul Lewis in the 16th minute.

MARCONI 1 (Gomez 13th)
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Patalis 50th)

IN an entertaining game Sydney Olympic managed to hold off a last ditch stand by Marconi to take a point from a 1-1 draw at Marconi Stadium.

The Fairfielders scored in the 13th minute when a Robbie Wheatley corner found Gomez climbing high above the Olympic defenders to beat Gosling with a well timed header.

David Lowe was

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● ● ●
GERRY GOMEZ

replaced at half time having suffered a suspected broken toe by Geoff Gunning.

Sydney Olympic equalised only four minutes after the break in similar fashion to the way Marconi had opened the

MELBOURNE CROATIA 0
APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (McKinna 51st)

FORMER Socceroo goalkeeper Terry Greedy was among the best players as reigning champion Apia-Leichhardt strengthened its bid for a place in the top five by beating Melbourne Croatia 1-0 in their match at Olympic Park.

Greedy had been in Tony Pezzano's shadow for more than a year before finally cracking it for the No.1 goalkeeping spot at Apia a little over a month ago.

He showed that he has not lost the ability that made him one of the stars of the Socceros for so many years.

He probably saved the match for Apia when he blocked a close range shot from NSL top scorer Paul Lewis in the 16th minute.

Croatia was out-playing Apia during the first half with Lewis giving his marker.

Arno Bertogna, a hard time and Josio Biskic causing havoc on the right flank.

The Sydney team however, held out due to the steady play of sweeper Charlie Yankos, who almost scored just before halftime with a thundering long range drive that crashed against the cross bar.

Apia took the lead six minutes after the break when a loose ball fell to striker Laurie McKinna whose shot deflected off defender Ian Dobson and served past goalkeeper Jeff Oliver.

The Apia midfield found more space after Melbourne Croatia replaced Theo Selemidis with flanker Joe Caleta in the 62nd minute.

Selemidis' departure from centre midfield meant that Brnako Milosevic moved in from the flank to fill the gap.

Apia's Hilton Phillips galloped on to a pass from Ward but shot wide in the 60th minute while Croatia's Lewis appealed for a penalty when he went down in a challenge by Yankos.

Referee Dennis Voutsinas turned down the appeal.

Apia coach Rale Rasic,

CROATIA THWARTED

back from an overseas trip during which he entrusted his team to his assistant Doug Utjesenovic, replaced hard working Terry Butler with the more attacking Anthony Parison with 20 minutes to go but it was Croatia that finished more strongly.

Lewis put the ball into the net only to be ruled offside and a header by defender George Hannah flashed narrowly over the bar.

LIONS MAULED

ADELAIDE CITY 5 (Maxwell 18th, 36th, 81st, Villani 49, Miller 75)

BRISBANE LIONS 1 (Ogden 22nd)
ADELAIDE City has roared to a 5-1 victory over the Brisbane Lions at Olympic Sports Field.

A superb hat-trick by City striker Steve Maxwell and goals by midfielder Charley Villani and substitute Colin Miller gave City its home town victory and kept alive its chances of making the top five.

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● ● ●
STEVE MAXWELL

The win was essential after City slumped to ninth position on the NSL ladder last Wednesday when Sydney Croatia beat Brunswick Juventus 3-1 in a deferred match.

City coach Zoran Matic was not overly impressed with his team, despite its win.

"They didn't play terribly well, four or five players may have been here physically but not mentally," he said.

"But sometimes we play hard and don't win and sometimes we play bad and win."

"This gives me a bit more hope but to finish in the top five is a long way off."

The Lions' depleted side had a hard battle on its hands from the start being without Grant Lighthown and David Hunter due to suspension and captain Frank Liddell, who was out with a damaged knee.

scoring when a corner was whipped across finding Terry Patalis who headed home.

The match held plenty of highlights as well as some sloppy play at times by both teams and a draw is probably a fair reflection of the game.

Marshall Soper replaced John Kosmina in the 66th however he was unable to penetrate any more than Kosmina was although the crowd was happier.

Crowd: 4900.

Sydney Croatia Wins

ST GEORGE 0
SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (Lamond 49th)

LATE substitution may have cost Sydney Olympic maximum points in their draw with Marconi at Marconi Stadium.

Olympic coach Eddie Thomson replaced Socceroo striker John Kosmina with Marshall Soper in the 67th minute only to see the substitute miss a winning chance eight minutes later.

Striker Terry Patalis crossed the ball for the right to the waiting Soper in the Marconi danger area but the forward lost control and the ball screwed off his boot.

"Marshall should have put away that goal. Kosmina would have put it into the net and maybe I made a mistake in replacing him," said Thomson.

The 21-year-old Lamond netted his third goal in successive games as Croatia continued its fine improvement of recent weeks.

Whilst his goal contained an undeniable element of luck it was nevertheless mainly a product of his sheer speed.

The Papua New Guinea-born Lamond raced through to take a chancy shot which bounced off opposing goalkeeper Mike Gibson in the 49th minute.

Saints' sweeper Steve O'Connor was tardy in clearing from the line and Lamond's momentum enabled him to chest the

GEORGIE GRABS POINT

FOOTSCRAY 1 (Crino 52nd pen)
GEORGE CROSS 1 (Parton 77th)

DEFENDER Shaun Parton salvaged an important competition point for Sunshine George Cross when he scrambled to a goal to give his team a 1-1 draw with Footscray at Schintler Reserve.

Footscray defender Drago Deankovic threw himself across the goal line to punch the shot by Parton but the referee ruled the ball had already crossed the line and awarded the goal in the 77th minute.

Parton hit his shot after running onto a loose ball when Footscray goalkeeper Zoran Nikitovic had blocked the initial shot from Gary Clark.

Van Egmond impeded Clark outside the box and was shown the red card even though he hadn't been booked previously in the match.

Referee Mike Browning of Adelaide booked five other players in the match — John Campbell and John Waddell (Cross) and Warren Spink and Mick Burlack (Footscray).

Footscray had taken the lead in the 52nd minute

ball home from beneath the goalpost.

Five minutes later he was at it again, but his chip from the left struck the crossbar before running free.

The entire second half was chock full of entertainment after an earlier period that is best forgotten.

With Craig Forster settling down to call many of the shots Croatia was the far more creative side.

However, Saints, inspired in the second half by some fine running and foot work by substitute Graeme Fletcher pressurised spasmodically towards the end.

In fact just before the whistle defender Mike O'Shea was almost through for a goal which would have been an undeserved equaliser.

Croatia coach Vedran Rozio said: "I was pleased that we managed today's win at the end of five match sequence over 14 days. He should do well now we are back to weekly games."

St George's Frank Arok had no excuses.

"Too many bad passes," he said simply. "We are in a lot of trouble if we can't handle Wollongong City at home next week."

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● ● ●
MANIS LAMOND

Nevertheless the game turned into a goal feast as Preston swung to a 4-1 lead early in the second half before a late revival by Brunswick which had the crowd on edge until the final whistle.

Brunswick opened the scoring in the 29th minute when Charlie Egan scored from a Garry McDowall cross.

Preston equalised in the 41st minute when Striker Stuart Stevenson controlled a loose ball in the area and netted from close range.

On the stroke of half time the home side took the lead when Stevenson flicked the ball to Ron Campbell, who headed past Pat Marrama.

Two minutes into the second half Preston surged further ahead when John Stewart headed a George Petrov free kick into the back of the net.

Stevenson appeared to seal the game for the home team 10 minutes later when he squeezed the ball past Marrama to put the home side 4-1 up.

Brunswick had different ideas and in the 69th minute McDowall, who had moved into a striking role, scored from a Charlie Egan pass.

The team continued to push forward and with seven minutes left Preston substitute Bill Piculovski handled the ball in his penalty area.

Joe Palatsides slotted away the penalty but it was no more than a consolation goal.

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● ● ●
OSCAR CRINO

NSL REPORTS

Juventus down again

PRESTON MAKEDONIA 4 (Stevenson 42nd, 57th Campbell 45th, J. Stewart 47th)
BRUNSWICK JUVENTUS 3 (Egan 30th, McDowall 69th, Paltsidis 83rd pen).

MAN OF THE MATCH:
● ● ●
RON CAMPBELL

BRUNSWICK Juventus sunk to a 4-3 defeat against Preston only 24 hours after sacking coach Len McKendry.

McKendry had been under pressure all season and with only one win from 11 League games was finally shown the door by captain Brian Brown taking over as caretaker boss.

Both teams started the game undermanned — Brunswick missed Mike Petersen and Andrew Zinni while Preston was without striker Steve Smith, who has broken his left wrist.

Nevertheless the game turned into a goal feast as Preston swung to a 4-1 lead early in the second half before a late revival by Brunswick which had the crowd on edge until the final whistle.

Brunswick opened the scoring in the 29th minute when Charlie Egan scored from a Garry McDowall cross.

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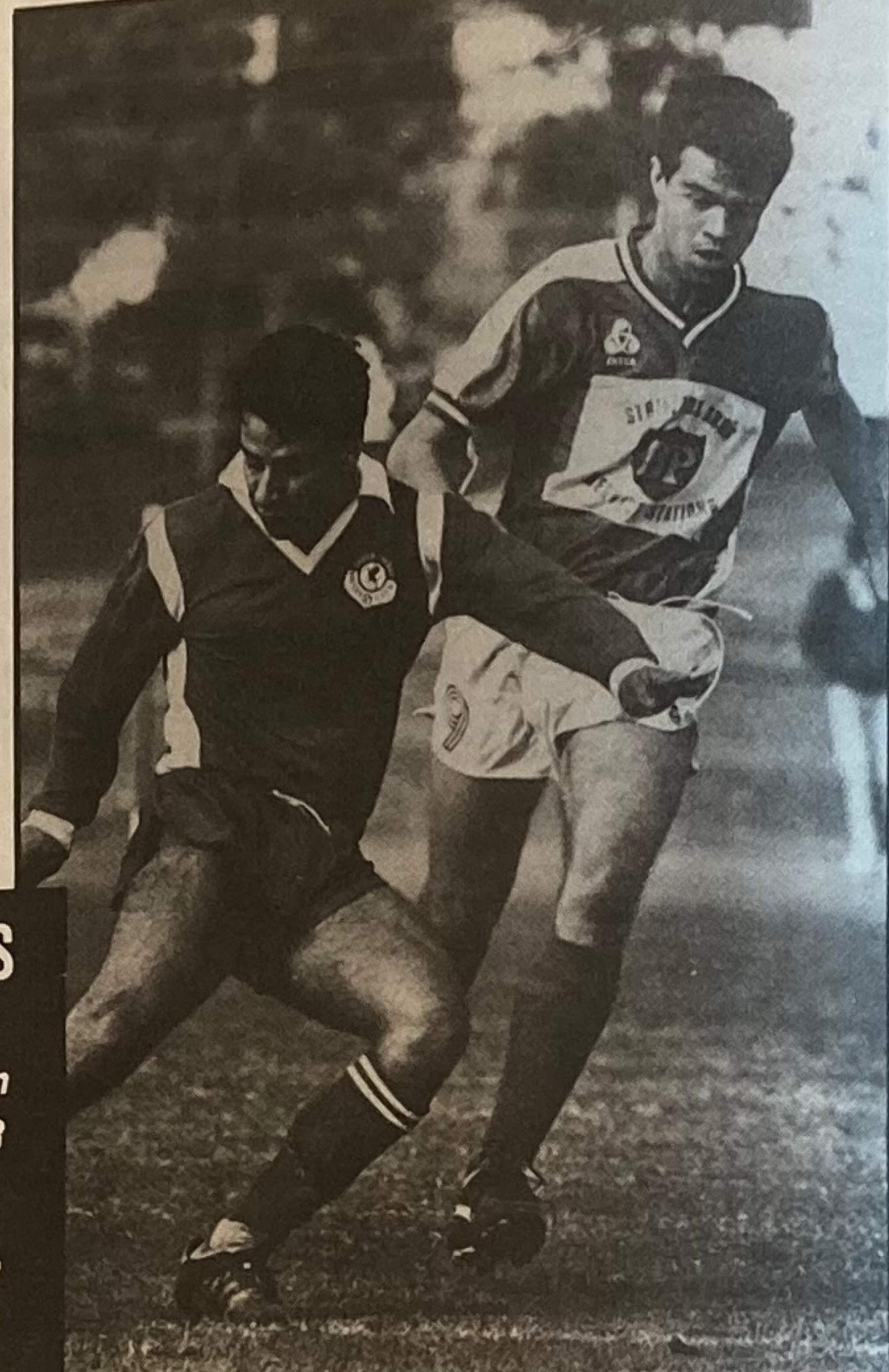
Two minutes into the second half Preston surged further ahead when John Stewart headed a George Petrov free kick into the back of the net.

Soccer Star's

Action-Packed Picture Page



● Footscray's Luciano Fabrizio takes on Robert Markovac.



● Robert Napoli and Angie Goutzoulis.



● Footscray's Warren Spink



● Robert Markovac

PHOTOS

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ROUGH JUSTICE!

THE Gary McDowall case has made it perfectly clear to those of us who believe in justice that there is an urgent need for a complete revision of the system which deals with soccer's law-breakers.

The Soccerroo defender was tried three times, found guilty three times and punished three times for the same offence and on no occasion was he allowed to say one word in his defence.

This clearly goes against not only the letter of the law, but the moral rights of anyone living in a democratic society.

Even the most hardened and habitual criminals are given the right and the machinery to defend themselves against accusation.

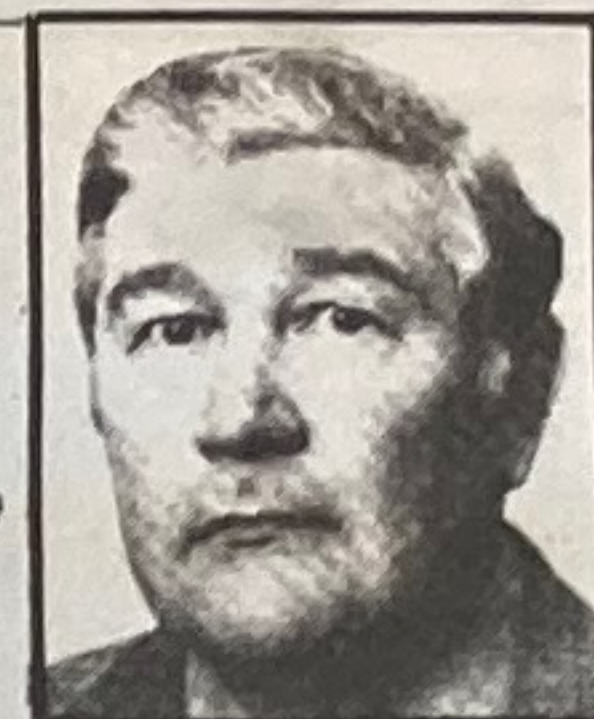
The fact that McDowall and many others before and no doubt, after him will not be treated with the same courtesy is surely a black mark on soccer's judicial system.

At the moment, even on an every day level, players who stand accused of breaking the laws of the game, are judged guilty until proven innocent. And even if they do prove themselves innocent, it is often too late.

Those ordered off, for example, automatically miss the following game. No consideration is given to the possibility that the referee may have made a mistake — perhaps with the identity of the player involved, which has happened on more than one occasion in the past.

Such an offhand manner of dealing with supposed transgressors smacks of kangaroo court procedure and the ironical thing is that soccer in Australia has more lawyers than you can shake a stick at.

By
BOB BRIAN
of the
Melbourne Herald



With so many qualified men, why is it that Australian soccer can allow such a blatant disregard for human rights?

And why is that with such a neanderthal system of justice, can the Australian Soccer Federation set itself above the game's ultimate authority, FIFA?

It certainly did this in the McDowall case when it followed up FIFA's three-game suspension with a much longer ban of its own.

One explanation is that the Australian Olympic Federation applied a little pressure in a letter to the ASF.

That wouldn't surprise me.

The Olympic Games authorities have been fighting their own problems with political interference, blood-doping, drugtaking and professionals competing as amateurs, and is probably very touchy about its image.

But I can't see what right it has to interfere in soccer.

After all, it has been more than happy to let FIFA run soccer at the Olympics — and very successfully too — for a long time now.

Be that as it may, the over-riding issue con-

fronting the game is still the holier-than-thou attitude adopted by the various disciplinary committees throughout the country.

No player should be punished automatically.

Australian Rules has its Monday night tribunal in which all miscreants are tried in a proper manner.

It is high time soccer adopted the same system.

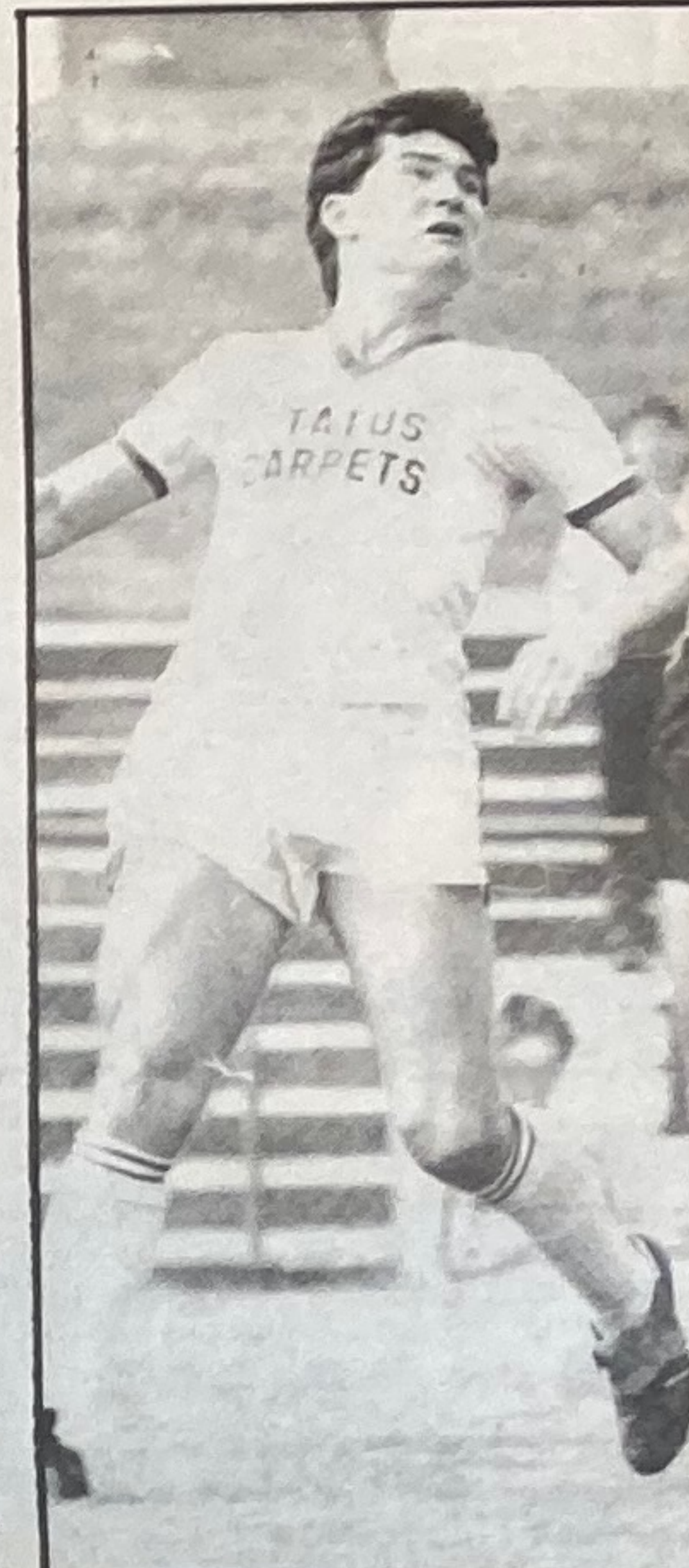
There is no need to call a full court hearing every time a player has been sent off.

But those who wish to defend themselves should be allowed to do so before being sentenced.

Those who don't want to, will have obviously accepted their guilt and are therefore prepared to accept the punishment that goes with it.

Referees are by no means infallible, even they admit that. Therefore it follows that players are sometimes unjustly punished.

It would be much better for all concerned — and the game in general — if we adopted the old cliché that justice must not only be done, but must also be seen to be done.



● Graham French another victim of rough justice?



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● Shaun Parton



SOME OF THE BACKROOM BOYS

Youth coach John Webb & senior coach John Gardiner with Physio Roger Borg keeping a watchful eye on proceedings.

THE RECORD TO DATE

MARCONI 0-6
SYDNEY CROATIA 0-1
APIA LEICHHARDT 1-0
 Carter
BRISBANE LIONS 3-2
 Richardson, Clark, McLaren.
JUVENTUS 3-3
 McLaren, Carter, Markovski.
SOUTH MELBOURNE 4-1
 Lennon (2), Clark, Campelj
ST. GEORGE 4-1
 Lennon, Parton, Clark, McLaren
WOLLONGONG 0-1

PRESTON
MAKEDONIA 1-1
 Jackson o.g.
ADELAIDE CITY 0-0
MELBOURNE
CROATIA 2-0
 Clark, Campelj
FOOTSCRAY 1-1
 Parton

SCORERS: Clark 4, Lennon 3,
 McLaren 3, Campelj 2, Carter 2, Parton
 2, Markovski 1, Richardson 1, o.g. 1.



● Back row: Tom Markovski, (now Western Suburbs), Gary Hasler, John Waddell, Sean Keogh, Aki Kotzamichalis, Robert Markovac.
 Front row: Mark, Lennon, Don McLaren, John Campelj, mascot Mathew Buhagir, Les Carter, Gary Clark, Jeff Faulkner, John Markovski.

A mere six months ago, Sunshine George Cross was fighting for its National League existence, and even though it eventually survived, few would have given it much hope of improving on last year's performance.

And when the first match of this campaign resulted in a 6-0 drubbing by Marconi, we all expected the worst.

But today, Georgie stands third on the League Ladder, highest placed of all the Melbourne clubs, and visiting teams have learned to have a healthy respect for the local Red Devils.

It's an amazing transformation and it hasn't been brought about by plunging into the transfer market either, that isn't Georgie's style.

When brilliant young Paul Trimboli went to South Melbourne at the end of last season it seemed that Georgie must go from bad to worse, but it didn't work out that way.

The team has scored 19 goals in 12 outings, and they have been shared between eight players, which speaks volumes for teamwork.

So what is the secret of Georgie's transformation?

Ask coach John Gardiner and he just shrugs his shoulders and says there is no secret, it's just hard work paying off.

But didn't the players work just as hard last year?

Of course they did, he responds, but the young players are growing more mature all the time, and as success breeds success, so they are beginning to believe in themselves more and more.

The arrival of John Waddell from Scotland has introduced a calming influence in the back four, and full-backs Andrew Marth and John Campelj look the more assured for it.

When Wollongong came to Chaplin Reserve, Marth virtually starved Alan Brazil out of the game, no mean feat that.

Sunshine George Cross revival is good news for the Melbourne scene, long may it continue.

On Sunday there should be a bumper crowd at Anderson Road to see Marconi, one of the glamour teams of the competition, and they will all be hoping that Marconi goes home crying 'Mayday' 'Mayday'.



● Andrew Marth

FIXTURES REMAINING

May 1	MARCONI (H)
May 8	SYDNEY OLYMPIC (H)
May 15	SYDNEY CROATIA (H)
May 29	BRISBANE LIONS (H)
June 5	JUVENTUS (A)
June 12	SOUTH MELBOURNE
June 19	ST. GEORGE (A)
JUNE 26	WOLLONGONG (A)
July 3	PRESTON MAKEDONIA (A)
July 10/17	ADELAIDE CITY (H)
July 24	MELBOURNE CROATIA (A)
JULY 31	FOOTSCRAY (H)
August 7	SYDNEY OLYMPIC (A)
August 14	FINALS

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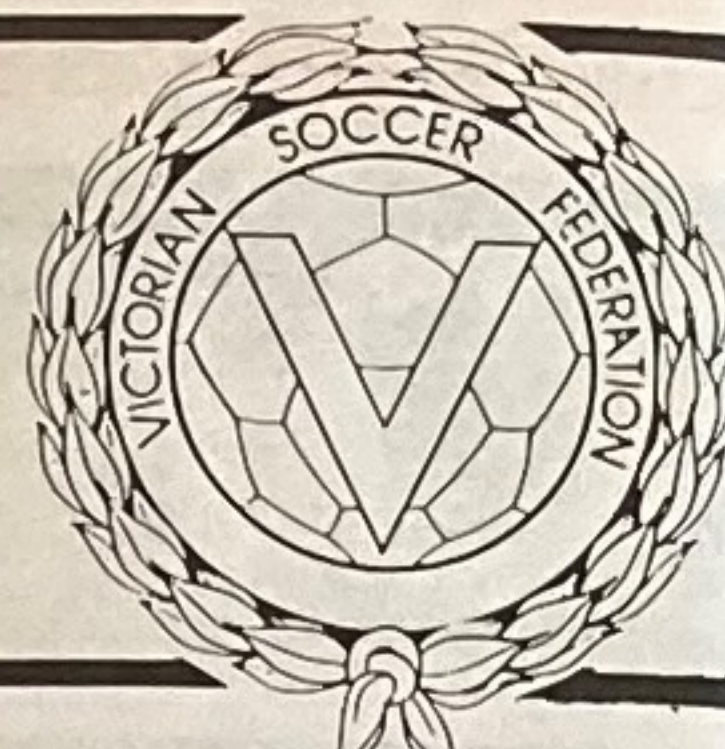
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Round Eight Details

BULLEEN 0 HEIDELBERG 1 (Anastasiadis, pen. 67th).

At Veneto Club, Saturday, Referee M. Calapietra. Sent off Ryanes (Heid.). Cautions Boin, Sells (B), Bordignon, Lucchesi (H).

BULLEEN: Contini 8 — Ruccia 7, Krajacic 7, Curulli 7, Boin 7 — Curcio 6, Trogrlic 6, Angele 6, Boziskas 6 — Lujic 6, Sella 6 (D'Amico 72nd). Coach Jim Rooney.

HEIDELBERG: Banovic 7 — Kanesoulis 8, Patiniotis 6, Ousalkas 7, Bordignon 7 — Valentine 8, Theodosopoulos 6, Lucchesi 6, Raynes (sent off) — Anastasiadis 7, Morovic 6. Coach Terry Hennessy.

Ansett Best Player Award: Valentine (H), Contini (B) 2, Kanesoulis (H) 1.

CAULFIELD CITY 2 (Harris, pen. 6th, Cozzella 15th) GREEN GULLY (Quigley).

At Princes Park, Saturday, Referee J. Santa Isabel. CAULFIELD CITY: Madjer 5 — Bitonis 7, Harris 7, Fattore 6, Filipou 6 — Theoharous 8, Alagizidis 6, Griffin 6, Hamakiotis 7 — Goutzioulis 6, Cozzella 6. Coach Rocco Ilie. GREEN GULLY: Sant 8 — Napoli 6, Farquarson 6, Cutler 6, Grimaud 6 — Wilson 6, Douglas 8, Quigley 6 — O'Donnell 6, Cannell 5, Smart 6. Coach Willie Vassallo. Ansett Best Player Award: Sant (G.G.) 3, Theoharous (C) 2, Douglas (G.G.) 1.

MORWELL FALCONS 1 (Gotis 36th) MARIBYRNONG 0

At North Crinigan Reserve, Referee M. Gaut. Cautions Reynolds Gotis (MF).

MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds 8 — Bennett 6, Clarke 7, Bruns 7, Gotis 6 — Jeff Doyle 6, Cassar 6, Drakeford 7, O'Callaghan 6 — Webster 6, Sokoluk 6. Coach Bobby McLachlan.

MARIBYRNONG: Dzielakowski 6 — Farrugia 6 (de Bono 71st), Stojcevi 6, Innes 7, Smolarek 6 — Watson (Czapnik 29th, 6), Baran 7, Chetcuti 6, Bonk 6 — Lakic 7, Warszawa 7. Coach Jim McIntyre. Ansett Best Player Award: Reynolds 8 (M.F.) 3, Clarke (M.F.) 2, Warszawa (M) 1.

ST ALBANS 4 (Celic 50th, 78th, Rastocic 8th, Popovski 89th) OAKLEIGH 0.

At Churchill Reserve, Saturday, Referee J. Rutter. Cautions Nicolaides, J. Guscic (Oak).

ST ALBANS: Grgic 7 — Dragovic 7, Colina 7, Gagula 7, Jurgic 7 — Macasevic 6 (Adaltam 81st), Duzel 6, Culina 7, Rastocic 7 — Kelic 7, Popovski 7. Coach Tony Vrzina.

OAKLEIGH: Kardamitsis 6 — Nicolaides 6, Politis 6, Guscic 5 (Laletas 66th), Hallford 6 — Livingstone 6, Vardaxis 6, Ross 7, Dick (Stamatidis 19th, 6) — Ward 7, Goullias 6. Coach Takis Sviggos.

Ansett Best Player Award: Kelic (St.A) 3, Popovski (St.A) 2, Culina (St.A) 1.

SPRINGVALE CITY 0 RINGWOOD CITY 2 (Nijholt 29th, Davie 65th)

At Ross Reserve Sunday, Referee R. Butler.

SPRINGVALE CITY: Boland 7 — Kral 6, Bryden, Bozic, White 7 — Findlay 6, Hennessy 5 (Settle 68th), Bell 5, Rau 5 (Kelly 78th) — Morrey 6, Black 6. Coach Gus MacLeod.

RINGWOOD CITY: Janssen 7 — Whitehouse 7, Nolan 6, May 6, Cumming 7 — Nelson 6, Corvan 7, Haupt 7, Davie 7 — Middlemast 7, Nijholt 7. Coach Hans Petersen.

Ansett Best Player Award: Nijholt (R) 3, Davie (R) 2, Middlemast (R) 1.

CROYDON CITY 3 (French 30th, Humble 43rd, van Egmond 65th) BOX HILL 2 (Burton 75th, Roodhouse 82nd).

At Town Park, Sunday, Referee A. McHugh.

CROYDON CITY: M. Runje 7 — Brown 6, Brack 6, McIntosh 8, Langsbury 6 — van Egmond 6 (O'Shea 85th), R. Runje 7, Campbell 7 — G. Runje 6 (Harbison 80th), Humble 7, French 7. Coach Miron Bleiberg. BOX HILL: McKinlay 6 — J. Mori 6, Bain 6 (Mazzagetti H.T.), Martinucci 7, Roodhouse 8 — Brimmer 6, Burton 7, McAleer 6, Thomas 6 — D. Mori 6, Aretis 6. Coach John Brown.

Ansett Best Player Award: Roodhouse (BH) 3, McIntosh (Croy) 2, Humble (Croy) 1.

THOMASTOWN 0 NORTHCOTE CITY 1 (Tsangos 26th)

At Partridge Reserve Sunday, Referee C. Bambridge. Cautions, Leonardos (N), Carfora (T).

THOMASTOWN: Raponi 6 — Arcoraci 7, Mihailidis 6, Pinalto 6, de Propertis (Raguso 20th, 7) — Dougherty 7, Carfora 6 (Pacca 68th), Lewis 7, De Martino 6 — Athersych 6, McGuinness 6. Coach Bill Murray. NORTHCOTE CITY: Turudia 6 — Leonardos 6, Palmariotti 6, Kouremenos 6, J. Constantinou 6 — N. Constantinou 6, Woodall 7, Tsangos 7, Bekiaris 7 — Ramos 7, Gilder 8. Coach Roy McLaren.

Ansett Best Player Award: Gilder (N) 3, Woodall (N) 2, Dougherty (T) 1.

WESTERN SUBURBS 2 (Kopsaftis 68th, Metaxas 80th) FAWKNER 0.

At Ralph Reserve, Sunday, N. Zacharidis.

WESTERN SUBURBS: Hatzilazarou 7 — Markovski 6, Kagioglou, Esposito 6, Pender 7 — Daley 8, Kopsaftis 6 (Stefanidis 85th), Hamill 6, Vo (Roumpas 62nd) — Tuck 6, Metaxas 7. Coach Jimmy Condilis. FAWKNER: Wilson 6 — Walsh 6, Henderson 6, Schipano 6, Angele 6 — Sabatino 6 (Orlando 74th), Cullen 7, Verechia 6 (Jankulovski 74th) — Brown 6, Hennessy 8, Stenson 7. Coach Mike Lynn.

Best Player Award: Daley (WS) 3, Hennessy (F) 2, Metaxas (WS) 1.

PACIFIC TIMBER State League Ladder

	FIRSTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
HEIDELBERG	8	7	0	1	16	4	14	
NORTHCOTE CITY	8	6	2	0	15	3	14	
CROYDON CITY	8	5	2	1	10	6	12	
ST ALBANS	8	5	2	1	16	10	12	
Caulfield City	8	3	3	2	10	8	9	
Green Gully	8	3	3	2	9	7	9	
Thomastown	8	4	1	3	7	9	9	
Maribyrnong	8	3	1	4	11	11	7	
Box Hill	8	2	2	4	11	13	6	
Mor/Falcons	8	2	2	4	4	7	6	
Fawkner	8	2	1	5	4	7	5	
Ringwood City	8	2	1	5	10	14	5	
Western Suburbs	8	2	1	5	9	14	5	
Bulleen	8	1	3	4	3	8	5	
Oakleigh	8	1	3	4	5	11	5	
Springvale City	8	1	3	4	3	11	5	

	RESERVES	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
CAULFIELD CITY 0 GREEN GULLY 3								
BULLEEN 5 HEIDELBERG 1								
MORWELL FALCONS 5 MARIBYRNONG 0								
ST ALBANS 2 OAKLEIGH 0								
WESTERN SUBURBS 1 FAWKNER 0								
WESTERN SUBURBS 1 FAWKNER 0								
CROYDON CITY 1 BOX HILL 0								
THOMASTOWN 0 NORTHCOTE CITY 5								
SPRINGVALE CITY 0 RINGWOOD CITY 1								

State League Reserves Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Northcote City	8	7	1	0	31	9	15
Green Gully	8	5	2	1	19	9	12
Mor/Falcons	8	5	2	1	15	6	12
Box Hill	8	5	1	2	24	9	11
Fawkner	8	5	1	2	14	8	11
Caulfield City	8	4	1	3	18	11	9
Ringwood City	8	4	1	3	18	13	9
St Albans	8	3	2	3	12	15	8
Maribyrnong	8	3	1	4	13	19	7
Thomastown	8	2	3	3	13	21	7
Western Suburbs	8	3	1	4	7	21	7
Croydon City	8	3	0	5	9	8	6
Heidelberg	8	3	2	3	18	19	6
Bulleen	8	2	2	4	15	17	6
Springvale City	8	0	0	8	3	24	0
Oakleigh	8	0	0	8	5	28	0

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ANSETT AWARD Leaders after Round 8

10. Duzel (St.A)	Kardamitsis (Oak)
9. M. Runje (Croy)	Theoharous (Caul)
Contini (Bul)	5. Banovic (Heid)
McIntosh (Croy)	Cullen (Fawk)
8. Higgins (Thom)	Daley (Ests)
Hatzilazarou (W.S.)	Davidson (B.H)
Quigley (G.G.)	Raynes (Heid)
Warszawski (Mar)	Patinotis (Heid)
Woodall (North)	Sant (G.G.)
7. Culina (St.A)	4. Bruns (M.F.)
Gilder (North)	Burton (B.H.)
Nijholt (Ring)	Cumming (Ring)
Ramos (North)	Curulli (Bul)
Roodhouse (B.H.)	Dougherty (T'own)
6. Anastasiadis (Heid)	Kostrazewa (Mar)
Douglas (G.G.)	Turudia (North)
McKinlay (B.H.)	Webster (M.F.)
Lucchesi (Heid)	



GREEN GULLY 1988

Back Row: Robert Farquarson, Steven Douglas, Colin Quigley, Charlie Sant, Joe O'Donnell, Gary Cutler, Stuart Cannell.
Front Row: Ken Smart, Robert Napoli, Mark Wilson, Robert Manzella, Mike Doherty, Robert Grimaud.

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NORTHCOTE v CROYDON IS TOPS

French decision baffling

State League Preview
By
BRIAN JAMES

YOU Must have been as staggered as I was when you saw Croydon's Graham French's name among the scorers in the State League results on Sunday night.

There must be two French's, I thought. I know Graham was sent off on April 17 in controversial circumstances, here he is bobbing up again and scoring too.

So I had to ring the VSF for clarification, and listen carefully, because this one is a lulu.

It appears that a sending off before the game, or at the half-time interval, or after the game is the subject of a special report, and until the Tribunal meets to consider it, the player can play.

Hands up all those people who knew this... I thought so.

Even by our standards, this is the biggest load of bullsh*t ever.

For years we have advocated passionately that a player should be allowed to continue playing until his case comes up, as is the case with the Football League and all other well-run bodies.

Now the VSF endorses this view, by allowing French to play whilst continuing to make players

serve an automatic one week's suspension if sent off during the course of play.

How can there be two different sets of rules for the same players in the same League... the mind boggles.

(Not just my mind, either... I rang the Chairman, Mr Jack Reilly to ask why French was allowed to play and off the cuff he didn't know either.)

The Tribunal's decision on this one is going to rival Solomon's, unless it decides to demote referee Sam Zoumas to the lowest reaches of the Amateur League.

I just hope this story doesn't get into FIFA News because we would be the laughing stock of the soccer world.

You can imagine the jokes...when is a send-off not a send-off, answer, why at half-time of course, but you mustn't play in the second half.

Never mind the red-cards, it's going to be red races all right unless someone steps in with a sensible solution.

What the hell a referee could be thinking of to pursue a player into a dressing room to carry on an argument at half-time is beyond me, but I'd better keep quiet or I'll be getting another writ.

It appears that you can criticise players with impunity, but referees are beginning to think themselves sacrosanct.

Some referees, that is, not the few good ones.

The Victorian President of the referees, Chris Bambridge says he's concerned about the strained relationship between the media and referees and hopes to organise a seminar soon between senior referees and the press.

I hope it comes off soon, and more power to his elbow, because this crisis of confidence in refereeing standards is becoming more serious by the week.

BUT enough about refereeing.

One of the most fascinating aspects of this season's State League is the revival of Northcote City.

Oh yes, I know, we've talked before about how well the first team is doing, joint leader of the league and still unbeaten after

seven games, but have you seen the reserves' record?

Top of the league ladder, also unbeaten and with 26 goals to its credit already.

Last year, as we all know too well, Northcote just survived relegation by the skin of its teeth, and its reserve team finished an undistinguished eleventh, having won just six games.

This year, its reserves have already won six games, equalling last season's record after only seven games.

What's the secret? I'm sure if coach Roy McLaren knew he'd bottle it and sell it at \$20 a bottle.

Maybe it's confidence but then that confidence hasn't rubbed off where Heidelberg is concerned, has it.

It's first team is up there, vying with Northcote for top spot, but its reserve team is down in eleventh spot and not looking too convincing either.

Maybe it's all in the mind, but I'll tell you something, those wisecracks who predicted Northcote's winning bubble would burst are beginning to look a bit sick.

There are some interesting tussles coming up this weekend.

The top encounter must be the clash between Northcote City and Croydon City at John Cain Reserve.

Providing the VSF provides a sensible referee, this should be a game and a half.

Taking into consideration the fact that Tony Redmond will be missing out of the Croydon back four and Graham French might be suspended, the odds would seem to favour Northcote, especially on its own heap.

But Redmond might not be missed all that much. Croydon coach Miron Bleiberg gave me a glowing account of the game played by the third Runje, Robert, in the

Fawkner has scored only four goals in eight outings, a poor return when consider they have Doug Brown and Kees Storm up front.

This weekend's games likely winners in capitals.

SATURDAY: Oakleigh v Springvale City (draw), Caloola Reserve. ST. ALBANS v Western Suburbs, Churchill Reserve.

SUNDAY: Northcote City v Croydon City, John Cain Reserve. Box Hill v MORWELL FALCONS, Wembley Park. MARYBYRNONG v Bulleen, Raleigh Reserve. Heidelberg v Caulfield City (draw), Olympic Village. GREEN GULLY v Fawkner, Gully Reserve. Ringwood City v THOMASTOWN, Jubilee Park.

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● A large crowd saw the Golden Greeks fight back from a 3-0 deficit against the strong PAO team to finally win 5-4 in a highly entertaining final.

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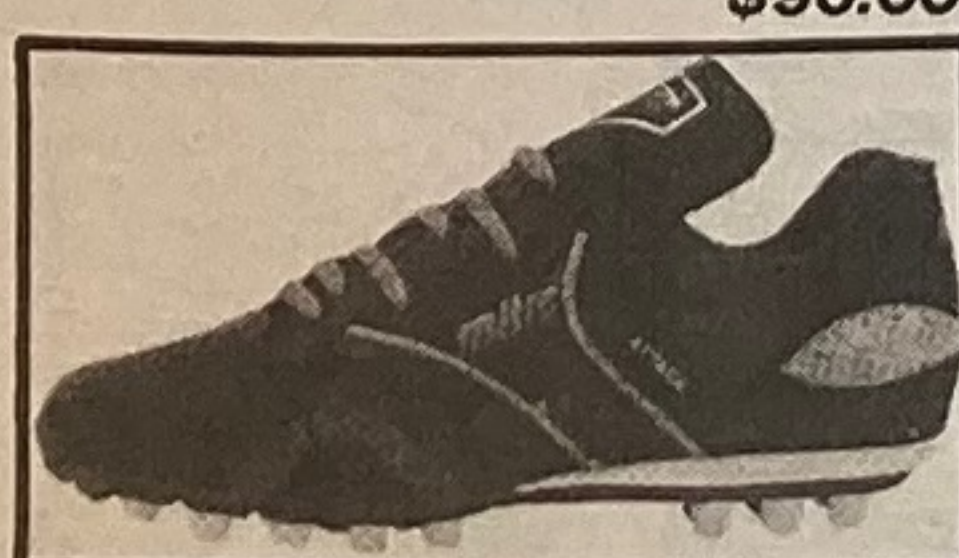
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VICTORIAN LEAGUE

Division 4

BORONIA 0 v Holland Park 0

Referee: Don Rosie

BORONIA: S. Robins, I. Williamson, G. Hobson, Dino Milosevic (caution), C. Langdon, W. Groenewald, D. Fisher, G. Groenewald, D. Tattersall, C. Radcliffe, P. Strahan. Coach: Ian Williamson.

HOLLAND PARK: T. Ergumer, I. Ozsoy, A. Dincer, I. Omekogullari, H. Ozcagli, A. Czanik, F. Colakoglu, A. Ozeagili, L. Elgueta, R. Akdeniz, A. Marshall. Coach: Andy Czannik.

A crowd of over 250 went away disappointed at this scoreless draw between two of the sides in the top four of the league.

Ambitious Holland Park had recruited heavily since meeting Boronia last August and only four of the names in that match appeared on the team sheet in this contest.

Two of Holland Park's new signings are big Alex Marshall from State League side Maryborough and "Slippery Eel" L. Elgueta from relegated Prahran.

Elgueta scored a hat-trick for Prahran when

Boronia over-ran his side in a 5-3 win last September. In the event Marshall and Elgueta were well contained by Boronia's defenders.

Hard tackling, tight marking and fast movement mainly in the mid-field thwarted many attacks and those that came anywhere near the keepers were well covered.

Best 3 for Boronia: Dino Milosevic, Gary Hobson and Ian Williamson.

Best 3 for Holland Park: F. Colakoglu, A. Czanik and L. Elgueta. The reserves match was won by Boronia 1 goal to nil but it was a rough affair with 3 players on each side having to be chastised by the referee. Yes, it was the Brits and the Turks at it again on the eve of Anzac Day!

It looked like being a repetition of the 0-0 seniors game until 10 minutes from the end when play-coach Hamish Young and David Fairburn combined well for the latter to sidefoot past keeper and player-coach F. Taptil, from close inside the goal area.

Like the seniors

Boronia Reserves have also had the best of these home meetings scoring 4 points out of a possible 6.

Best 3 for Boronia: Paul Desmond, Brett Clarke and Hamish Young.

Best 3 for Holland Park: U. Cinon, A. Torgay and K. Sen.

VICTORIAN LEAGUE

Division One

Werribee v Nunawading City at

Calvin Park, Werribee

WERRIBEE: E. Meletis, P. DiBernardino, G. Rateni, R. Barba, T. Cosentino, F. Petricca, G. Lo Grasso, G. De Amicis (G. Calarco-73rd), S. Magnano, S. Hackett.

NUNAWADING: C. G. Sullivan, C. Calafiore, S. Nellies, A. Christidis (T. Neal80th), C. Barker, K. Taylor, D. Azzopardi, I. Greener, S. Randazzo, M. Boggero, C. Jerez.

AFTER Werribee had hit the post in the opening minutes, the speedy Nunawading forwards gave the home defence plenty to think about. After 15 minutes, a right wing corner was sent to the far post where Randazzo, by no means the tallest player afield, rose head and shoulders above the defence to head

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V
PRESTON
MAKEDONIA

MIDDLE PARK

K.O. 2.30 PM



Con Opasins



Joe Palatsides

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JUVENTUS
V
ADELAIDE CITY

OLYMPIC PARK

K.O. 2.30 PM



Steve Maxwell



Shaun Parton

SUNSHINE
GEORGE CROSS
V
MARCONI

CHAPLIN RESERVE

K.O. 2.30 PM



Craig Mason

ST. GEORGE v WOLLONGONG
ST. GEORGE STADIUM K.O. 2.30 PM

BRISBANE LIONS v MELBOURNE CROATIA
RICHLANDS K.O. 2.30 PM

APIA LEICHHARDT v FOOTSCRAY
WENTWORTH PARK K.O. 2.30 PM

SYDNEY CROATIA v SYDNEY OLYMPIC
CROATIAN SPORTS CENTRE K.O. 2.30 PM